

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Thank you very much. Have a good day.
Thank you very much.

Remarks to Volunteers for Presidential Correspondence

June 12, 1993

Thank you. Good morning. I want to thank you all for coming here and for being willing to help us with what is really a great problem for democracy. But as all of you know, we get a lot of mail at the White House. What a lot of people don't know is we're getting a lot more than anyone ever has. And by the time we had been here 3½ months, more letters had come to the White House than came to the White House in all of 1992.

We're getting about 40,000 letters a day. We are desperately working to try to answer those letters with very limited staff. We've had already about 450 young people from the area agree to come in and help us in the past. But today I'm proud to say that there are over 800 young people who will be working today to help open and staple the mail that comes in here, so that then it can be read and sorted and answered.

We have gotten over 3 million pieces of mail, with more coming. And that's good. But we have to answer all those letters. We have to let the American people know that they are being heard, and we're working very hard on it. And I might say, that's after we opened an E-mail channel, so we've got a lot of people coming in through E-mail. We've got extra phone lines on for people to call in, and we're still getting this much mail.

So you are really going to help make democracy work today. And all over America, people will have their letters read and their letters answered more quickly because you've agreed to come here and help us open and staple the mail so it can all be processed more quickly.

I am personally very, very grateful to you for doing this. You've made a real contribution to helping the White House work for America better. I hope it's also a great fun day for you. And I'm delighted to see all of you here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:42 a.m. on West Executive Drive at the White House.

Remarks on Signing the Flag Day Proclamation

June 14, 1993

Good morning. Welcome to the Rose Garden, and thank you for joining us for this observance of Flag Day. As we begin, I want to introduce three children, to my left, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance: Christopher Williams, an 8-year-old from Ketcham Elementary School; Delilah Johnson, who is also 8, from Ketcham Elementary School; and Sean Mizzer, 10 years old, from Watkins Elementary School. They are now going to lead us in the pledge.

[At this point, the students led the Pledge of Allegiance.]

Good job. Let's give them a hand. I thought they did well. Thank you. *[Applause]*

Thank you. Please be seated. I want to acknowledge the presence of a few of our guests in the audience today, including Mr. James Kenney, the national commander of AMVETS; Mr. Louis Koerber, the president of National Flag Day Foundation; Mr. George Cahill, the president of the National Flag Foundation; and Mrs. Romaine Thomas, who is the principal of Ketcham Elementary School, where two of these children attend school. Thank you all.

On this day in 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of our Nation. Throughout our history, this flag has been a potent symbol of America and what it means to be an American. You can hear America's reverence for the flag in our music from our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," written by Francis Scott Key in 1814, to George M. Cohan's "You're a Grand Old Flag," to John Philip Sousa's magnificent march "The Stars and Stripes Forever," performed best by his very own United States Marine Band.